



RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – FAMILY BULLETIN

Where Tomorrow Begins

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RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, March 22, 2024



This week, the school recognized Nowruz and Naw Rúz with a haft sin table set up in the main foyer. Many holidays and observances occur this week, including Purim, Holi, and Easter. We wish students, families and staff happy celebrations.

Please also join us for our Iftar Night on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 7:00 pm, sponsored by our Muslim Student Association. Tickets are

available on SchoolCashOnline.

[Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter – March 2024: Time for a Break!](#)

Indigenous Self-Identification

The York Region District School Board is committed to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students' success. We continue to support Indigenous students and work to provide a curriculum that facilitates learning about contemporary and traditional First Nation, Métis, and Inuit cultures, histories and perspectives among all students. To continue supporting self-identified students, the [First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Ancestry Self-Identification brochure](#) was updated in 2022. Current students can self-identify by completing [this form](#) and submitting it to the principal.

Guidance

This year, the YRDSB will collaborate with York University to offer the K2i Academy – Summer 2024 Bringing STEM to Life Program in Physics for another summer. This program provides the unique opportunity for students (priority will be given to female students who identify as Black and/or Indigenous) to work with the K2i Academy on a STEM research project while pursuing a Grade 11 (3U) or Grade 12 (4C) Physics credit. Students will also be paid which will allow them to be employed during the summer while working towards a science credit. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information.

Interested students should see their guidance counsellor for registration. Submissions must be made by **April 29th, 2024**.

YRDSB Alumni Win Silver at National Special Olympic Winter Games in Calgary

Five YRDSB alumni from two PEAK Programs (Richmond Green S.S. and Huron Heights) qualified last year to represent Ontario in Curling at the 2024 National Special Olympic Winter Games. The team recently returned after competing in Calgary February 26 – March 3rd. In attendance were 1,250 athletes from 8 different sports. The curlers faced teams from PEI, British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia, and B.C. They hung onto second place in their group, won a tough semis, and walked away with an impressive silver medal in the final game against B.C. With thousands of Special Olympians across Canada it was an honour to represent Ontario, compete on the national stage and have a strong showing.

The athletes all learned to curl through a Special Olympic School Curling Program facilitated by RGSS Special Education teacher Cory Randell. Team members Alekos Vandikas, Alex Geense, Gabi Mann, Amanda Young, and Ruby Lappin all play and practiced together at the Richmond Hill Curling Club. Four of these athletes previously joined other classmates and competed in the Special Olympic School Provincial Games in Bocce, Basketball, and Floor Hockey for three consecutive years prior to Covid.

These athletes truly live up to the Special Olympic Motto....

Let me win,
But if I cannot win,
Let me be brave in the attempt.



YRDSB Budget Survey and Consultation

YRDSB is inviting staff, families, and community members to participate in the annual budget consultation process taking place until **April 12, 2024**.

These opportunities for staff and public input provide the Board with important information about how staff and the broader community would like the budget to be allocated to continue supporting student achievement and well-being in York Region.

Survey

The [online survey](#) will be available until April 12, 2024.

Public Consultation Date

In addition to the survey, a virtual consultation session will take place on Monday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.:

- For listen only, telephone access to the webinar, dial 647-497-9386 and enter access code 661-120-742; or,
- [Register for online access to the consultation session](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

NEKS Korean Families Engagement Night

The Network of Educators for Korean-Canadian Students (NEKS) invites Korean families and community members to attend a workshop to develop a deeper understanding of the Ontario Education System. Families will be able to learn about the K-12 Ontario Education System with an emphasis on **transitions from elementary to secondary school, post-secondary pathways, and Special Education**. Please share the flyer below with your school community.

NEKS Korean Family Engagement Night

[\(Flyer\)](#)

Thursday, April 11, 2024

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Thornhill Secondary School

167 Dudley Avenue, Thornhill, ON

Registrants will have an opportunity to attend two of the following workshops:

- Opportunities and Pathways after High School: Learn about different pathway opportunities after high school. What career opportunities are there? How do we prepare our students for life after high school?
- Transitioning into High School: Learn about different programs at YRDSB schools. What are some tips for being successful in high school?
- Special Education: Learn about special education and Individualized Education Plans. How can students who are struggling in school be supported?

Registration Information

Register online using this Google [form](#).

Registration deadline is **Monday, April 8, 2024**.

For more information, please contact: Jasmin (Jae Yeon) Kwak, NEKS Chair, jaeyeon.kwak@yrdsb.ca

SEVA Sikh Student Association Launch Event

Sikh students from Grade 6 to 12 are invited to be part of the YRDSB Sikh Student Association, a space where your identity is celebrated and supported!

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Time: 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Virtually (the link will be shared upon registration)

The Sikh Student Association provides YRDSB students with a platform to connect, collaborate, and explore strategies to foster inclusive environments for Sikh students. This space will provide opportunities to build on leadership skills and advocacy to support yourself, peers and the community.

To Register please fill out a [registration form](#) by **March 25, 2024**. If you have any further questions, please reach out to SEVA.YRDSB@gmail.com

See [SEVA SSA Flyer](#) for more information.

Supports for Students with Autism and their Families

This session will support parents, guardians and families with:

- Understanding Autism
- Process for diagnosis

- YRDSB referral process
- School supports
- Community resources

Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Unionville High School, 201 Town Centre Blvd, Markham, ON L3R 8G5

Please **register** by **Apr. 28, 2024**.

This free information session is organized by Inclusive School and Community Services in partnership with Student Services of York Region District School Board. For more information, please email shani.blake@yrdsb.ca or pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca

Please note that Childcare will not be provided.

Free Recreation, Sport Programs, Summer and Overnight Camps:

For Children and Youth ages 4-18 whose families participate in one of the following:

- Ontario Works
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities
- Rent Subsidy (including STAR and Ontario Housing Benefit)
- Childcare Fee Subsidy (income below \$43,000)

Some programs are only eligible to families in York Region Housing Communities

- Housing York Inc.
- Non-Profit Housing
- Cooperative Housing

For More Program Information and Eligibility:

Call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 or visit york.ca/recreationsubsidies

Tune in YRDSB

Two new podcasts are available on the YRDSB podcast network:

Shine Episode 6: Heather Greenwood Davis

In this episode of Shine, we're joined by the remarkable Heather Greenwood Davis, the trailblazing freelance travel writer who holds the distinction of being the first & only black woman to have column in both Canadian national newspapers.

[Welcome to Experience YRDSB](#)

Welcome to a new sub-series of Tune In YRDSB. In this episode, we are introducing Experience YRDSB and delving into the courses and programs that let students explore their interests, and gain skills, experience, credits and certifications.

Graduation Photos



Missed your grad photo? We've got you!

Our studio is now booking appointments for April 6th and 7th, 2024 in our **AURORA** location.

[GRADUATION PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIOS » Edge Imaging](#)

Address:

Aurora Preparatory Academy
81 Industrial Parkway North,
Aurora, ON L4G 4C4

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week – May 6-10, 2024

Mark your calendars! Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is the first week in May. Please see [this link](#) for a series of workshops for caregivers.

Metrolinx – Ontario One-Fare Program

Effective February 26, 2024, students will only pay once when they transfer between TTC and GO Transit, Brampton Transit, Durham Region Transit, MiWay and York Region Transit. Learn more on the [Metrolinx website](#).

Computer Purchase Program

Please see the following [letter](#) and [flyer](#) for information about the computer purchase program. This information has also been sent directly to your email.

Virtual Consultations for Parents/Caregivers of the Tamil Diaspora Community

Consultations will provide an opportunity for Tamil parents/caregivers to:

- Acquire strategies for cultivating meaningful interactions and connections with their child
- Explore ways to support their child's mental health and well-being
- Understand how to request and navigate accessing support, including mental health services, for their child at school
- Discuss current difficulties and challenges experienced by their child
- Learn about resources in the York Region community to better support their child's needs

Please see the following flyers for more information:

[Tamil Parents-Caregivers Consultations Flyer \(English\).pdf](#)

[Tamil Parents-Caregivers Consultations Flyer \(Tamil\).pdf](#)

School Washrooms

Students are reminded that school washrooms are not to be used for social activities including eating. At the beginning of the year, we introduced school "zones". The Green zones are areas where students may sit, collaborate, socialize and eat. Yellow zones are for collaborating and socializing. Red zones are spaces such as stairwells (walking through only) and washrooms (bio breaks only). The zones are for everyone's safety in the school.

Personal Property

The school and the Board are not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen personal items. You can reduce the risk by leaving valuable items at home. Always secure items. More information can be found in the [2023-2024 Guide to the School Year](#).

Engagement Fee

We are proud at Richmond Green to host a vast number of clubs, sports teams and other activities and events for students. The Student Engagement fee supports the operation of these activities for students. The Student Engagement Fee is an optional but recommended fee on School Cash Online. Please note that there is differentiated pricing for school events based on payment of the Student Engagement fee.

Students Can Now Explore Secondary School Opportunities by Sector

A new collection of webpages will let students explore [16 different career sectors](#).

Our secondary schools offer courses and programs that let you explore your interests, build skills and gain experience in areas that interest you. You can now [search from 16 different sectors](#) to learn more about:

- career pathways in the fields that interest you
- courses and programs you can take in secondary school that let you gain sector-specific skills, knowledge and experience
- how you can earn certifications, post-secondary credits and job experience while in high school

Find out what courses and programs are available in the fields that interest you at your school. Visit www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb.

RGSS is on Instagram!

Follow @rgssofficial to receive updates on school news, events, student achievement, and more!

Student Expectations in the Community

We are lucky to have positive relationships with community vendors. Many students enjoy eating lunch at the Costco food court. Costco has asked if students could please:

- purchase their food and leave once done eating
- use debit and credit as preferred payment methods (for speed of transactions)
- stay in the food court only unless entering the store with a membership card

Following these guidelines will ensure students enjoy continued access to the food court.

Bussing

Bussing is provided to eligible students through Student Transportation Services (STS). STS operates bus routes for students in JK-12 for both the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board. More information, including daily late bus reports, can be found at www.schoolbuscity.com. Please note, **it is important that students ride only on their designated route. This is for everyone's safety and security.**

School Start Up Forms

School start up forms were sent to families and students this week. Please see the [Resources and FAQs for families](#) for more information. Secondary students received the following message:

School Start-Up Forms (Message to Secondary Students)

Each year, we ask secondary school students to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information. Students are asked to [complete this form](#) online. If you have any questions about the information in the form, please speak with your teacher, principal or vice-principal.

It is important that all students complete and submit these forms as soon as possible at the start of the school year.

Updating Contact Information

If you need to update any contact information (e.g., home or email address, telephone number, etc.,) please email: richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca

School Safety

Please be reminded that all visitors to the school must sign in at the main office and get a visitor tag. This tag should be clearly visible while in the building on business. Students are reminded not to bring guests anywhere on school property (indoors and outdoors) as well as to the library during school hours.

Attendance



Students are expected to be in their scheduled classes each period. If you sign your child out of school, they need to leave school property. This includes the library during school hours, as it is considered to be school property during the school day. Please do not give your child permission without calling and giving the office notice for them to be in the library during the day. If your child is going to be absent or away from any of their classes, please contact the Main Office **email is preferred** - richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca or by phone 905-780- 7858, press option 1. Please let us know your child's student number, full name and grade.

TeachAssist Parent Portal

Students in Secondary School use TeachAssist to view their schedules and ongoing assessment. They can also schedule guidance appointments. Parent/guardians may also register for the TeachAssist Parent Portal. Through this portal, you will be able to view your child(ren)'s marks, and book interviews with teachers for the Interview evenings held each semester (more information on this semester's interview evening will come closer to the date).

To register for the TeachAssist Parent Portal, please visit:

<https://ta.yrdsb.ca/yrdsb/parents/index.php>

You will need to enter the email address you have on file at the school. You will then be sent a one-time email to confirm your registration.

Notice From Richmond Green Library

In recent years, we have faced recurring challenges in our library washrooms, including issues such as vaping, eating, and disruptive gathering during school hours. Despite the diligent efforts of both the library and RGSS, it's hard to maintain continuous monitoring due to limited staff availability.

After a thorough review of the situations, the library and RGSS will start to implement new measures to address these concerns. Effective November 9, 2023, the library will enforce restricted access to the washrooms during school hours.

1. Locking washrooms: Both library washrooms will remain locked during school hours.
2. Key sign-out procedure: Students may obtain a washroom key by leaving their student cards at the service desk. Student cards will be returned upon key return. **Only one student is permitted at a time.**
3. Limited occupancy: A maximum of two users will be allowed to enter the same washroom simultaneously.
4. Reporting disruptions: Any disruptive behaviours observed will be reported to both the library and RGSS administration for appropriate action.

We hope these measures will help create a more conducive and respectful environment within our library facilities, and promote a better learning atmosphere for all RGSS students.

Kinnect Youth Mentoring Program

Social support network and mentoring program for Black students. Please see [the flyer](#) for more information.

Medical Information

A reminder if your child has a serious medical condition and has not received the medical forms, please fill out the appropriate form(s) below and return to the Main Office. **Please complete new forms each school year.**

<u>Anaphylaxis HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with a life threatening allergy.
<u>Asthma HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with asthma.
<u>Epilepsy (Seizure Disorders) HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be complete for all students with a seizure disorder (including epilepsy).
<u>Type 1 Diabetes HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with diabetes.

Health Care Plan (Other)	This form should be completed for all other serious and potentially life threatening health conditions that are not already specifically addressed (Asthma, anaphylactic, diabetes, and seizure health care plans).
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COVID Health and Safety Protocols for 2023-2024

York Region Public Health has advised that schools continue to be required to follow the [Ministry's COVID-19: health and safety measures at schools](#).

All students, staff and visitors need to complete the self-screening tool. Students should complete the [COVID-19 self screening tool](#) and follow instructions and next steps. Masks are optional for students, staff and visitors.

Surfaces in the school building will continue to be disinfected and hand sanitizer is available. Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will continue to be promoted throughout the day.

Key Dates

- Interim Reports Distributed – beginning Monday, March 25, 2024
- Good Friday – Friday, March 29, 2024
- Easter Monday – Monday, April 1, 2024
- Parent/Guardian/Teacher Interviews – Thursday, April 4, 2024
- Mid-Term Report Cards Distributed Electronically Beginning – Thursday, April 25, 2024
- Relationspaces: Transforming Relationships with our Children–Tuesday, April 30, 2024
- P.A. Day – Monday, May 6, 2024
- RGSS Musical – Tuesday, May 7, 2024 & Wednesday, May 8, 2024
- School Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Victoria Day – Monday, May 20, 2024 (No School)
- RGSS Prom – Thursday, May 30, 2024